



Youth at Risk in Transition

Summary

Switzerland is known for its well-established vocational education system and highly determining selective allocation. The study focuses on the needs of youth at risk, which with a strong likelihood, do not find an immediate path into vocational education and training and the labour market. Although many studies on the first transition from compulsory school into vocational education and training exist, only a few are longitudinal studies. Furthermore, research concerning youth at risk, which are specially threatened to fail in their transition from school to work, is needed. A special interest of this study lies on company and school intern and extern institutional support services, as well as support from the personal environment, which can be seen as crucial aspects for successful access into vocational education and training and into the labour market. The following research questions are investigated: (1) How successful are youth at risk in their transitions from school to work? (2) Are there differences between successful and unsuccessful youth at risk regarding perceived relevance, frequency of use and usefulness of different support services? (3) Which recommendation for improvement of support services, especially so called “bridging offers” can be derived?

The study combines longitudinal data (two measurement points before transition and one during vocational education and training) on the one hand and cross-sectional data of youths having passed a special transition program on the other hand. Data were collected using quantitative questionnaires to answer research question (1) and part of (2). To answer research question (2) and (3) case studies with problem-focused interviews will be carried out by purposeful sampling and qualitative content analysis.

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